

**King County Food Policy Council Meeting with special guest Mark Winne**  
**September 16, 2004**

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WSU King County Extension  
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120 (Cougar Room)  
Renton, WA 98055

**Attendees:**

Tammy Morales, Curtis Beus, Anne Murray, Nike Riley, Jen Lamson, Carl Hanson, Mary Embleton, Leslie Zenz, Branden Born, Mark Musick, Brad Gaolach, Rosalinda Guillein, Rio Thomas, Caitlin Pensak, Becka Warren, Goldie Caughlin, Sarah Murray, Alston Leber, Pablo Monsivias, Marge Brando, Jon Brier, Beve Kindblade, Chrys Ostrander, Paul Benz, Susie Kyle, David Bobanick, Marcy Ostrom, Steve Evans

**Identifying issues and actions local government could take:**

Institutional buying

Farm to School

Purchase

Educate

Local economic development ("multiplier effect")

Reinvigorate – interdependence

What can government do about it?

- OSPI ask state legislature to have farm to cafeteria programs.
- Fund a half time or full time position to coordinate purchasing farm products from a variety of farmers when institutional demand is too great for one farmer to supply.
- Look into wholesale farmers markets
- Educational process.
- Make Seattle School District's food policy available to other school districts
- Media
- The county takes on the obligation to educate the public on nutrition/child nutrition and local farm economy. Make the information available to the public on how to do it in your school. This affects grassroots action so parents can help make a change on the local level.
- Expand senior service programs.
- Council mandates all service organizations (arts, rec, etc.) that buy institutionally or buy locally and council exhibits the reasons why. Implications to all departments.

Economics

Identify external costs of food system

Ag

Public health

Lifecycle assessments of food

Access to healthy foods – affordability

Actions government can take to create/support a healthy regional/local food economy.

- Commission a report update on status of farming in King County

- Involve universities to put reports together
- Planning dept. regulations – to improve ability to have community gardens and cottage industries. Spokane example: relax use of land for subsistence activities.
- Series of public forums in low income areas to assess needs of specific communities with specific criteria.
- Regulatory agencies monitor standards for food production and how many people work in food production?
- Local government can mandate ag related jobs and plants as a priority for the local economic development council.
- Develop a local label and local identity.
- Intercounty trade commodities – cooperatives. County level processing centers a goal.
- Quantify economic value with the trade policies.
- Import/export evaluation – figure out what would be able to be produced here. Assess the economic impact of that move.
- What are farmers markets doing to track product sales?
- City and county charters can designate formulas for the farmers markets (base percentages for a healthy sustainable local economy) – like how many farmers markets can prosper in any community.

### Land Tenure

Farmers Markets

Community Gardens

Farms

Farmlink

Increase farmland preservation

Inventory regulations - impacts to food system

Issue: sites for farmers markets, community gardens, farming, grocery stores and other “food infrastructure” are often not secure. They face the threat of being sold and/or redeveloped for other uses.

Specific actions for government:

- Inventory sites
- Provide status of “security” – what are the possible threats to keeping land in this use? What “options” exist for each site?
- Identify the “politics” of development (how/why sites may be open for change)
- Provide assessment of community “need”
- Provide criteria for evaluating the provision of services
- Define overall goal – e.g. no net loss or some type of growth goal
- Define a level of service (e.g. x acres/1,000 population) for community gardens, farmers markets and other food infrastructure
- Make definition “place based” rather than an average so that you can’t move from one area to another and call it “even”.
- Scale level of service requirements so that more weight is given to areas where there is relatively more poverty/hunger/food insecurity than other areas
- Define food related infrastructure as part of “critical infrastructure” under land use element of GMA comp plans

- Codify “food infrastructure” similar to police, fire or other services

Other suggestions:

- Develop annual food system report that includes the indicators above, provide support for FPC to do the reporting
- Address purchasing requirements to reflect the recommendations of the FPC to favor local agriculture/economic development
- Institute Conservation Futures Funds to support FPC
- Apply food security “screen” to comp plan

#### Labor

Labor standards

Farm worker issues

Worker participation in decision-making

Social justice – criteria for policy options

#### Public Education

Indicators of food security

Increase use of quest cards at farmers markets

Nutrition education

Budgeting

Purchasing

Using assistance programs

Raise awareness of importance of local ag

Improve quality of food in emergency food system

#### **Next step task areas and assignments**

A. Inventory food related programs in local government and identify linkages

Pablo Monsivias

Tammy Morales

Marge Brando

B. Identify and recruit stakeholders

Mark Musick

Rosalinda Guillen

Alison Leber

Jen Lamson

C. Develop proposal

Leslie Zenz

Mary Embleton

Sarah Murray

D. Develop FPC structure and identify process for official sanction

Sarah Murray